

***Lymexylon navale* (L.) (Col.: Lymexylidae) in Hertfordshire**

Two females of this distinctive beetle were observed on recently-felled trunks of oak *Quercus robur* near Shenley, Hertfordshire (VC 20) on 31 July 2001. One of the females was watched ovipositing in an almost imperceptible fissure in the exposed heartwood at the base of one of the felled trees. Also present on these trees were the Brown Tree Ant *Lasius brunneus* (Latr.), common in this part of Hertfordshire (*Ent. Rec.* **112**: 84; and P. Attewell, pers. comm.), and a rather late adult of the buprestid *Agrilus pannonicus* (Pill. & Mitt.).

There appears to be but one previous record of *L. navale* for Hertfordshire, from Hatfield (some eight kilometres from Shenley) in 1963 (T. James, pers. comm.). Shenley is in the south of Hertfordshire, near Borehamwood, and thus also falls within the "London Area" (the recording circle of the London Natural History Society), in which the species is known from Richmond Park (e.g. *British Wildlife* **11**: 109) and Ashted Common (Owen, 2000, *Ent. Gaz.* **51**: 239-248), both in Surrey. Allen (1966, *Ent. Rec.* **78**: 79-80) lists Windsor Forest (Berkshire), the New Forest and Portsmouth (Hampshire), Dunham Park (Cheshire) and Stretford (Lancashire) as localities then known, to which have been added Moccas Park (Herefordshire) (Cooter, 1976, *Ent. Rec.* **88**: 319-320), Headley (Surrey) (Owen, 1993, *Entomologist* **112**: 141-160) and Shrubland Park (East Suffolk) (Nash, 2001, *Ent. Rec.* **113**: 26). This list of known sites may not be exhaustive.

Cooter (*op. cit.*) emphasises the difficulty of ascertaining the presence of this species even on well-worked sites, a point the same author later amplifies in *Ent. Mon. Mag.* **119**: 116, and Allen (*op. cit.*) stresses the static distribution and poor colonising powers of primary-forest relics such as *L. navale*. These points may need to be considered in the interpretation of records, including the present one. Nonetheless, the several recent reports represent a positive development in the conservation of this Vulnerable (Red Data Book category 2) species, in addition to showing the commendable growth of interest in saproxylic insects being displayed by entomologists.

I would like to thank T. J. James, A. A. Allen and especially Prof J. A. Owen for their helpful correspondence.— C. M. EVERETT, The Lodge, Kytes Drive, Watford, Hertfordshire WD25 9NZ.

Additional observations on the presence of *Leptotes pirithous* (Linnaeus, 1767) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) in Madeira Island, Portugal, with a record of the first confirmed host plant

The presence of *Leptotes pirithous* on Madeira was first recorded by Hall & Russell (2001, *Ent. Rec.* **113**: 261) during August 2001. It was observed flying between 20 and 1450 metres, and females were observed ovipositing on several different plants (*Phaseolus* sp., *Teline maderensis* and *Plumbago capensis*). Additional specimens

were collected by Wakeham-Dawson *et al.* (2002. *Ent. Gaz.* in press), during October 2001 in Funchal city and, for the first time, from neighbouring Porto Santo Island. On 29 November 2001, Ole Karsholt collected a male *Leptotes pirithous* at Lugarinho, Ponta do Sol some 20 km west of Funchal (40-45 m above sea-level) during a field trip with the first author.

On 26 October 2001, Celestina Brazão collected six larvae (three in their fourth-fifth instar and three in their second-third instar) that were feeding on *Tipuana tipu* (Benth.) O. Kuntze leaves at Caniço Para a Cidade, some seven kilometres east of Funchal. *Tipuana tipu* is a leguminous tree from the South American tropics that is commonly grown in Madeira as an urban ornamental and is the first confirmed *L. pirithous* host plant in Madeira. Of the six larvae collected, three died as a result of difficulties associated with maintaining cut *T. tipu* leaves in the laboratory. Of the three that survived, two pupated on 1 November 2001 and the imagines (a male and a female) ecdoded on 9 November 2001. The third larva pupated on 5 November 2001 and the imago (a male) ecdoded on 16 November 2001.

The fifth instar larva (Plate H, Figs 1 & 2) has a woodlouse-like (onisciform) appearance, which is characteristic of many other Lycaenidae. When seen from above, the flattened green body conceals the legs and head and is covered by very short whitish hairs that give the larva a velvety appearance. The pupa (Plate H, Fig. 3) is light-brown and mottled in some areas with tiny black dots. In the adult male, the upper surface colour of the wings is an iridescent light blue (Plate H, Fig. 6) and the underside pattern is mottled light grey with lighter grey, wavy lines. On the sub-margin of the under hind-wings, there are two small black dots. In the male, these are surrounded by silver and dark grey. There is a small, fine tail located between the dots and associated with vein CuA2. In the adult female, the upper surface of the wings is darker than in the male and the area of iridescent blue, although reduced to the discal area of the fore wings, is brighter than in the male (Plate H, Fig. 6). The under sides of the female wings are similar to those of the male (Plate H, Fig. 5), but have a darker grey background colour, are more strongly mottled with dark grey and have more prominent pale grey-white wavy lines. In comparison to the male, the sub-marginal black dots on the underside of the female hind-wings are surrounded by silver and yellow, rather than silver and grey, and are visible through the wings when viewed from the upper surface. The dots do not show through to such an extent in the male. The hind-wing tails appear to be slightly longer in the female than in the male. 6-13 October 2001. *Entomologist's Gaz.* (in press).— A. M. FRANQUINHO AGUIAR, Laboratório Agrícola da Madeira, Est. Eng. Abel Vieira, 9135-260, Camacha, Madeira, Portugal. E-mail: antonio.aguiar@srafp.pt — ANDREW WAKEHAM-DAWSON, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD, Great Britain. E-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk — CELESTINA BRAZÃO, Laboratório Agrícola da Madeira, Est. Eng. Abel Vieira, 9135-260, Camacha, Madeira, Portugal. E-mail: celestina.brazão@srafp.pt

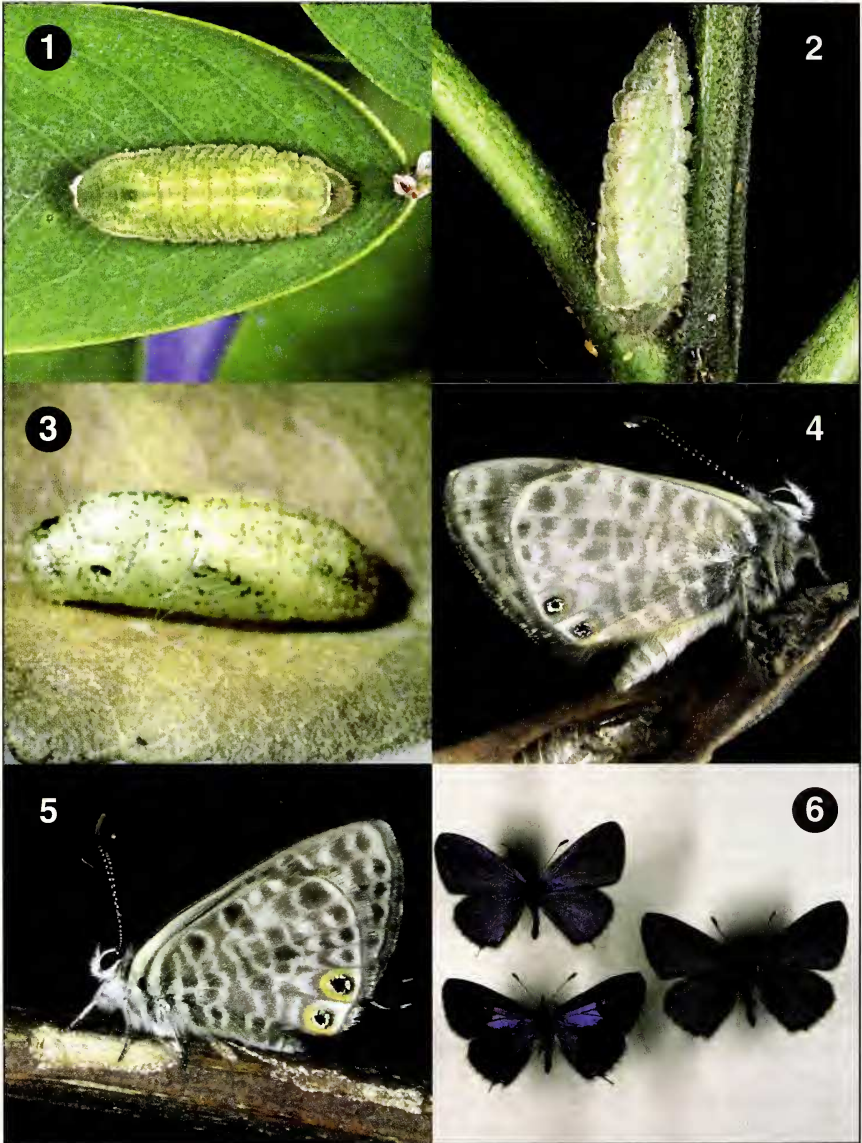


Plate H. The life stages of *Leptotes pirithous* (L.) in Madeira

1 – Fifth instar larva feeding on *Tipuana tipu* (Leguminosae), dorsal view; 2 – Fifth instar larva, lateral view; 3 – Pupa; 4 – Underside of male; 5 – Underside of female wings; 6 – Upper surface of wings – males in the upper left corner and right side, female in the lower left corner.